

e-Therapist Bulletin – February 2008

SPECIAL EDITION

THERAPY SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE CHANGE EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2008

Effective February 1, 2008 the Division of Developmental Disabilities (Division) is implementing the new rate schedule for therapy services. **Services can be billed at the new rates in March 2008 for services provided in February 2008.** The specific services impacted include: Occupational Therapy and Evaluation; Physical Therapy and Evaluation; and Speech Therapy and Evaluation. This special edition e-Therapist Bulletin includes an overview of the changes, the new rates, and information on the resources available to you for billing purposes. Please note that if you have individual transition plans approved for current consumers you will be able to bill according to your agreement for those individuals.

Under the new rate structure, therapy services will continue to be billed according to the location of the service, whether "clinic" or "natural" environment. What will change is the basis for determining the rate. As before, a "clinic" setting includes the office or central location of the provider and generally requires the consumer or family to travel to the site for service. A "natural" setting more typically involves the therapist traveling to the consumer's home or location in the community for provision of their service. The "natural" rate will *not* be based on the distance traveled by the therapist but instead on the zip code of the consumer's residence. Rates for natural settings are higher than those for clinic settings to take into account the time associated with travel to and between appointments.

Therapy providers will bill the Division the appropriate rate based on: 1) the setting the service was delivered in; and 2) the zip code of the consumer's residence. The rate system is built on a tiered structure, beginning with a base rate and adjusted for perceived difficulty in serving an area. Tier 1 rates are 10% above base; tier 2 is 25% above; and tier 3 is a 50% adjustment above the base rate.

To assist providers in identifying current rates and billing accurately, the Division has created a *Therapy Rate Lookup Tool* available through the Division's website at the following link:

<https://www.azdes.gov/ddd/downloads/vender/rates/divisionratelookupfile.xls>

In addition, a revised *2008 Rate Book* has been posted to the Division's web site and includes the new therapy rates. This document can be accessed at:

<https://www.azdes.gov/ddd/downloads/vender/rates/ratebookfebruary12008.pdf>

Should you have questions about the new rate schedule, please contact your District Therapy Coordinator.

The Division deeply appreciates the services provided by its therapy network and looks forward to continuing the provision of quality therapy services for the consumers we mutually support.